Estates and local Revenue Authorities to conduct Joint surveys for the purpose. The balance amount of compensation will be released to the State Government on finalisation of Board of Officers' proceedings.

Construction of destructive submarines

†775. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Navy has prepared project for the construction of some destructive submarines to enhance its capability;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any target has been fixed to complete this project?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Government have approved a long term perspective plan for indigenous construction of submarines and acquisition of national competence in submarine building. The plan is to be implemented in two phases. The first phase is scheduled for completion in 2012 and the second phase in 2030.

Modernisation of MiG Aircrafts

†776. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to modernise the MIG Aircrafts keeping in view their countinuous air crashes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a team of Russian experts visited India;

(c) if so, the report of the Russian experts and Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. in this regard;

(d) the target laid down for the modernisation of the MiG fleet; and

(e) the number of aircrafts of defence fleet crashed since January, 1999 to date and the reasons for these crashes?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) MiG-21 Bis aircraft (the latest variant of the MiG-21 series) are being upgraded to enhance their operational capability. The upgrade plan is not related to aircraft accidents.

(b) No, Sir, not in the context of the upgrade project.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) A total of 125 MiG-21 Bis aircraft are to be upgraded by the financial year 2004-2005.

(e) A total of 92 aircraft accidents have taken place since January 1999 due to reasons like human error, technical defects, bird hit and natural operational risk.

Fresh steps taken for Defence Procurements

777. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Asian Age', dated the 1st June, 2002 under the caption, "Defence Ministry takes a fresh look at procurements";

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by the Ministry in relation to procurement procedure in the light of the recommendations of the Chief Vigiliance Commissioner and the Comptroller and Auditor General of India?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government have set up a Defence Acquisitions Council and a Defence Procurement Board, chaired by the Raksha Mantri and Defence Secretary respectively, with senior level representation of all Departments and Service Headquarters of the Ministry. An arrangement for mandatory and time bound scrutiny of all major procurement cases, worked out in consultation with CVC and C&AG, is in place. The role of authorised Indian representatives/agents of foreign suppliers has been defined and a system of registration laid down. In addition, it is the Ministry's constant endeavour to simplify the acquisition process.